

Cumrae Community Council

Minutes of a monthly meeting

Thursday the 11th of March 2021 at 5 p.m. via Zoom

1. Present

Graham Wallace (Chair), Dr. Charlie Shaw, Lisa Christie, Sharon Hagan, and Crawford Gillan.
North Ayrshire Councillors Alan Hill, Ian Murdoch, and Tom Marshall.
Constable Beattie and Police Inspector Wilson.
6 members of the local community also attended the meeting.

Apologies were received from Alex Caldwell.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of CCC meeting held on 11 February 2021

Proposed by Lisa Christie and seconded by Charlie Shaw.

To allow Constable Beattie to return to her duties of the day the Police Report on the Agenda was moved to Item 3.

3. Police Report

Constable Beattie reported that in the previous month there had been 13 incidents reported to them, two of which had been recorded as criminal offences. This compared with a total of 19 reported incidents but no criminal offences this time last year.

There were no questions for the officer at the conclusion of her report.

Inspector Wilson updated the meeting regarding North Ayrshire police plans for the forthcoming period including the Easter holidays in respect of ensuring compliance with Covid19 restrictions.

Additional officers would be seconded to both Largs and Millport to assist CalMac and a multi-agency approach was being adopted between Police Scotland, CalMac and North Ayrshire Council. A lot of the issues that could arise would be weather dependent, and they would look at the upcoming forecast and watching out for attempted travel to the island by day trippers and second homeowners in breach of current restrictions. Inspector Wilson said that any members of the public breaking current regulations will be dealt with. A comprehensive package of public information and advice will be published which should put people off in the first place, however, if they do continue to make non-essential journeys on public transport etc. then they would be dealt with. Any concerns that Millport residents had concerning non-compliance should be notified to the police via 101 and officers would be tasked in line with normal procedures.

In respect of additional policing resources for the island during the busy summer months, the Inspector announced that an additional police officer had been seconded to the island for the summer months. The meeting noted its appreciation of the information provided. Inspector Wilson was thanked by the Chair. Inspector Wilson retired from the meeting.

4. Presentations

a. Watersports Centre

This item was also moved on the Agenda to permit Councillor Hill to leave the meeting early.

Councillor Hill gave an update and stated that Sport Scotland and North Ayrshire Council were very keen to go down the community asset transfer route. He provided comments on possible uses being

considered by the working group to include watersports, accommodation, health and wellness, etc. The working group once again requested local volunteers to come forward with any expertise or assistance that could help the group move forward with its proposals.

5. Matters arising from the previous minutes and matters being pursued

- a. A reminder/update of current restrictions introduced as a result of Covid-19 had been posted on the CCC FB page.
- b. Several letters, emails and verbal representations had been received by CCC from residents concerned about current, and potential future, non-compliance with restrictions.
- c. CCC had entered into correspondence with NAC, Police Scotland and MSPs seeking clarification on how compliance/non-compliance with Covid restrictions would be monitored and handled in the forthcoming weeks. A full response and explanation of what actions would be taken had been received from NAC following its discussions with Police and Govt. representatives.

Other relevant matters on this subject were largely covered in the update provided by Inspector Wilson regarding policing response for the future and particularly for the holiday period.

6. Brief reports of regular meetings attended.

a. NAC Cumbrae Ferry Meetings – no meeting held.

b. Cumbrae Ferry Users Group (FUG) -

A presentation had been given by the CalMac team for "ar turas" (Our Journey) new ticketing system. Italian company awarded the contract, currently suppliers to Grimaldi and British Columbia ferries. Aims to add functionality to existing. Booking will be via web, and app, in addition to existing methods for all types of ticket, blue badges, concessions, etc. Go live will be late 2021, in support of the summer timetable. It wasn't clear if all functionality would be available immediately. The team took away the question as to whether tickets could be bought through island businesses.

Blue Badge Concession issue.

Finally SPT no objection to checking concession cards on the slip for blue badge holders, but current CalMac systems not capable. Three ticketing systems, Compass for all regular tickets, Blue Badge and Concessions, none of the systems integrated and only Concession system can give discounts. CalMac not willing to spend resources dealing with this before ar turas introduction, promising to fix it in the new system, but possibly not immediately.

Winter timetable to be reintroduced from 26/3/21 then summer timetable from 25/4/21. Passenger capacity will be adjusted when government guidelines permit. Third ferry availability under consideration, the issue is where to dock when not in service.

CalMac has limited contingency if Cumbrae slip is out of action for an extended period. This has been referred to the Ayrshire Resilience Team.

c. Cumbrae Community Group Meeting - No meeting held

d. Hunterston Parc Liaison Meeting - No meeting held.

e. Hunterston SSG

The Detailed Emergency Planning Zone has been agreed by NAC at 2km based on advice from EDF although NAC will maintain emergency iodine tablet supplies within the past DETZ (i.e. within 2.4km). Councillor Murdoch advised that both Fairlie and Cumbrae had requested that

the DETZ be extended to a 20 km safe zone as had been applied around similar nuclear plants in Europe but that proposal had been rejected on advice from EDF.

The revised REPIR is therefore now in place. (<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/Documents/CorporateServices/ChiefExecutive/communications-plan-for-hunterston.pdf>)

At Hunterston "B", Reactor 3 is currently offline and Reactor 4 will be shut down w/c 15 March. EDF has stated that a new safety case for a further operational period of 6 months will be submitted to ONR following inspection of 10% of the reactor cores. Following this period of operation (if granted) both reactors will be permanently shut down and a de-commissioning plan put in place.

A spent fuel rod (as opposed to a dummy fuel rod) had been found in a bunker at Hunterston "A". It has been contained and an investigation is underway.

f. North Coast Locality Partnership

The main information from Cumbrae perspective was:

- i. the appointment of the new Islands Officer Sarah Baird and information that the ScotGov £30m Islands Fund requires 'shovel-ready projects'.
- ii. news that the NAC 'elderly grant' availability has doubled this year as it was not spent last year (so about £27k available this year).
- iii. Otherwise there was an update from NAC on Food with Dignity programme roll-out, a Locality Priority Review & presentation on the [2021-2023](#) Policing Plan by Police Liaison Derek Frew and a further presentation on the work of the Alliance Credit Union.

7. Standing Items

- a. Police Report - see above
- b. CC Resilience Team - no update
- c. Planning applications – applications have been lodged for:
 - i. a new house at Kirkton Crescent
 - ii. alteration works to the East Church and application for its use as a residential centre and
 - iii. an EIA Scoping Report for the Millburn Flood Alleviation Scheme
- d. Licensing Applications – None
- e. Roads Update – Following earlier representations some work has been undertaken to repair potholes. CCC will again submit an updated photo register to NAC identifying the most problematic areas and those requiring urgent attention.
- f. Cycle Paths – it was noted that despite requests for further information about proposals for improving cycling safety through the provision of a cycle path from the FSC to the slip, as identified as a priority by the community during earlier consultation processes, no information has been received on progress or proposals from NAC. This is to be chased up again with the council.
- g. Millport Town Hall - Millport Town Hall Charity are working hard towards selecting a contractor who is going to deliver the construction stage of the project. Solicitors are still processing the asset transfer of the site from NAC to the Charity and we are waiting to hear the terms of the funding agreement for the Scottish Government funding. It is very much hoped that work will commence sometime during June – Covid restrictions allowing. We understand there will be disruption and contractor traffic and will do everything we can to minimise the effects.

- h. CCDC Update – The hard standing area for the campervan site is well underway and the access road is to be resurfaced in the near future. The refurbishment of the Crocodile Rock toilet block is proceeding well and the new sanitary ware/fittings will be installed over the next week or so. A defibrillator has been fitted to the external wall. The recycling containers between the DA Hall and Dance Hall have been removed by NAC and will not be replaced. The old textile bank is to be replaced in the future with a new one at an alternative site by NAC.
- i. Millport FPS/Millport Marina
 - i. Residents have requested assistance to have flooding to properties and the road at Marine Parade addressed. This has been passed to NAC Roads for action.
 - ii. The CCC/MPHUG had highlighted to NAC the need to now scope out the next areas of work which were required to progress the Millport Marina proposal as the FPS is due for completion in 2 – 3 years. A very positive response had been received from Russell McCutcheon advising that George Hunter would make contact to arrange a meeting to follow it through.
 - iii. We have been advised that the work to fence off the wooden section of the pier is due to commence in the near future and asked if there were other works required to the pier, harbour and jetties which it might be possible to address at the same time. A meeting is to be arranged to discuss this with NAC based on feedback from CCC and MPHUG members.

8. Agenda Items

a. Millport Support Group Update.

It was reported to the meeting that the Group had been volunteering in the community for the last 12 months. The efforts of the committee and the 30 odd volunteers were to be commended and thanks were once again sent by CCC to the support group. The weekly lunches are still being provided to over 100 local people and it was hoped that the funding would allow this to continue into April of this year. The CrocTalk newsletter was due out on the weekend of the 14th of March and again it was hoped that post covid-19 that funding could be found to allow the newsletter to continue as a community information publication.

b. Peel Ports – Mooring Incident

CCC has written fully supporting a call for a full and detailed inquiry into this major incident by relevant UK authorities. We have also emphasised the need for NAC to be fully involved in any such inquiry and for full account to be taken of the extremely negative and damaging impacts and outcomes for the island if either or both of the ships had grounded.

c. Dog Fouling

CCC has been made aware of community concerns regarding increasing instances of dog fouling. It was noted that CCC had previously investigated what action could be taken by NAC and that advice had been given that anyone witnessing instances of dog fouling can report it anonymously to the Environmental Enforcement Team at North Ayrshire Council. Successful reports have already resulted in fines of £80 being issued. It was again reported that the Team can be reached by email at: environmentalenforcementteam@north-ayrshire.gov.uk or via phone and asking for the Enforcement Team on [01294 310000](tel:01294310000).

Dog fouling can be reported to https://www.online.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/OnlineServices/ReportOnline/RO_General.aspx?CustomerType=Anonymous&RequestType=DogFouling or on the NAC “ReportIt app.”

It was agreed that this information would again be posted on the CCC FB page and on relevant FB pages where complaints were being logged including Millport Grumbler.

d. Housing Allocations

Complaints have been made by residents regarding housing allocations on the island. An email had been circulated to the North Coast councillors before the meeting detailing the specific complaints to avoid having them read out at the meeting since they contained sensitive information that would make people identifiable. *(Councillor Hill had left the meeting early but left a note in the Zoom Chat to say he would follow it up and would send a comprehensive response to CCC.)*

It was suggested by an attending member of the public that the allocations were based on rumour and gave further information on their understanding of the allocation process which would involve their being registered on the National Housing Register and that phone assessments would be carried out with the applicants regarding allocation of the new homes. The member of public did not believe at this time that any firm decisions had been made surrounding the allocation of these properties and that they would send Lisa Christie further information regarding this.

e. Press reports – None

9. NAC: Councillors Updates.

Councillor Murdoch advised to meeting that he had raised actions regarding the condition of the roads on the Island with the relevant department at North Ayrshire.

10. AOCB

- a. At a previous meeting of CCC it had been agreed that an award of £200 be made to Cumbrae Primary Parent Council towards the cost of creams and soaps required to help counteract the affect of constant handwashing/sanitising but it had not been recorded in the Minutes. It was formally agreed that the award now be recorded and made.
- b. CCC agreed to look at a road map out of covid-19 concerning future Community Council meetings with the sincerest hope that face-to-face meetings would be permitted soon. It was suggested and agreed that if it was possible technologically that it would be a good idea future CCC meetings could be broadcast via Zoom to allow local people to join in from home if they were unable for whatever reason to attend the monthly meetings.

11. Date of Next Meeting : Thursday 8 April 2021 @ 5.00 pm via Zoom.

Meeting ended and attendees thanked.